

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ACDA-07 /096 W
-----030859Z 105836 /12

P R 021725Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9324

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BISSAU BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAKAR 3037

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, UR, XY, US, SG

SUBJECT: SENEGALESE PRESIDENT SENGHOR IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR
STRESSES CONCERN OVER SOVIET/CUBAN MEDDLING IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 97049 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN APRIL 30 CONVERSATION, PRESIDENT SENGHOR
URGED THAT US DEVISE IMAGINATIVE WAYS TO AVOID BEING OUT-
DISTANCED BY SOVIETS IN AFRICA. HE SAID AFRICAN STATES WERE
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AWAKENING TO REALITY THAT AGGRESSIVE SOVIET-CUBAN PRESENCE
WAS MAJOR DESTABILIZING FORCE ON CONTINENT. THOUGH SOMALIS
SOUGHT LARGER WESTERN PRESENCE, VISIT BY ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION
HAD DISCOURAGED SENGHOR ON PROSPECTS FOR WIDENING SOVIET INFLUENCE
IN HORN. (HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WAS NOT SUPPORTING RECENT OVERTURES
TO MOVE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) TO DAKAR). USSR
AND CUBAN INFLUENCE WAS INCREASING IN GUINEA-BISSAU, ALTHOUGH

CAPE VERDE CONTINUED TO RESIST SOVIET PRESSURE FOR BASE RIGHTS. MODERATE STATES WERE REGROUPING IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET-CUBAN MEDDLING. THIS WAS MAJOR CONCERN AT FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT. SENGHOR SAID NEXT MOVE WOULD BE FORMATION OF DEFENSE PACT AT JUNE 9-10 ABIDJAN MEETING OF ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICA (CEAO); TOGO WAS SEVENTH PROSPECTIVE MEMBER. SENGHOR EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PRESS DISTORTIONS GAVE IMPRESSION OF LACK OF USG COHERENCE ON SOME AFRICAN ISSUES WHICH WEAKENED AMERICAN IMAGE IN AFRICA. I ASSURED HIM THAT US FOREIGN POLICY LEADERSHIP WAS UNITED IN DEVELOPING AND PURSUING SOUND AND PRODUCTIVE POLICY IN AFRICA IN WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS AND AFRICAN DESIRES WERE MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. SENGHOR RECEIVED ME APRIL 30 IN HIS STUDY AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. HE WAS IN PENSIVE BUT CONFIDENT MOOD, DESPITE HIS IMPENDING DEPARTURE ON MAY 2 FOR THREE WEEKS IN EUROPE AT TIME WHEN SENEGAL WAS WROUGHT WITH MAJOR STUDENT DISTURBANCES (SEPTEL). AFTER VISITS IN WEST GERMANY, MONACO, AND ROME, HE SHOULD RETURN TO DAKAR ON MAY 19.

3. AFTER DISCUSSION OF MY TRAVEL PLANS, SENGHOR SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT US AMBASSADORS IN AFRICA WOULD MEET IN ABIDJAN. NOW IS TIME FOR US TO REASSESS ITS AFRICAN POLICY AND TO DEVISE IMAGINATIVE WAYS TO ADVANCE WESTERN AND DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND INTERESTS AND TO AVOID BEING OUTDISTANCED BY SOVIETS. HEARING IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY'S VIEWS ON INCREASING IDEOLOGICAL POLARIZATION IN AFRICA, SENGHOR HOPED, WOULD HELP CONVINCE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT AGGRESSIVE SOVIET-CUBAN PRESENCE WAS MAJOR DESTABILIZING FORCE ON CONTINENT, REALITY
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TO WHICH INCREASING NUMBER OF AFRICAN STATES WERE AWAKENING.

4. RECENT VISIT TO DAKAR BY ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION (DAKAR 2889) LEFT SENGHOR DISCOURAGED BY PROSPECTS FOR WEAKENING OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN HORN OF AFRICA. DELEGATION DID LITTLE MORE THAN SPOUT SLOGANS OF "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM" AND APPEARED UNIMPRESSED BY SENGHOR'S COUNSEL TO SEEK ETHIOPIAN UNITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN BLACK AFRICAN "NEGRITUDE" RATHER THAN FOREIGN-BACKED MARXIST-LENINIST FRAMEWORK. SENGHOR SAID HE TOLD DELEGATION HE OPPOSED ERITREAN SEPARATISM BUT FELT THAT REGION WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN GREATER AUTONOMY AS INDUCEMENT TO SEND CIVIL STRIFE. SENGHOR REMAINED LEERY OF PRESENT ETHIOPIAN LEADERSHIP AND SAW LITTLE HOPE FOR NATIONAL UNITY UNDER THEIR AEGIS.

5. IN CONTRAST TO HIS PESSIMISTIC ESTIMATE OF ETHIOPIAN SITUATION, SENGHOR SAW SIGNS THAT SOMALIS WISHED TO ENCOURAGE LARGER WESTERN PRESENCE AND DIMINISH SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THEIR COUNTRY, REAL EXTENT AND POTENTIAL OF WHICH THEY WERE ONLY BEGINNING TO APPRECIATE. HE HOPED US WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO

ANY GENUINE OVERTURES FROM SOMALIS. I ASSURED SENGHOR OF OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT IN THE HORN AND INFORMED HIM OF US PLANS TO OPEN CONSULATE GENERAL IN DJIBOUTI WITH VIEW TOWARD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AFTER INDEPENDENCE OF AFARS AND ISSAS REPUBLIC. HE SAW THIS AS GOOD MOVE AND NOTED HE HAD HAD SOME RECENT SUCCESS IN PERSUADING VARIOUS DJIBOUTI POLITICAL FACTIONS TO FORM UNITED FRONT AS COUNTRY MOVED TOWARD INDEPENDENCE. AFRICAN DISPLEASURE WITH ETHIOPIAN REGIME HAD LED TO OVERTURES TO MOVE OAU TO DAKAR BUT SENGHOR SAID HE PREFERRED TO RESERVE DAKAR AS CENTER FOR AFRICAN AND THIRD-WORLD ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND NORTH-SOUTH DISCUSSIONS.

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USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DAKAR 3037

6. SOVIET-CUBAN MEDDLING IN AFRICA WAS LEADING MODERATE STATES TO REGROUP, SENGHOR SAID. THIS HAD BEEN MAJOR CONCERN OF DAKAR FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT WHICH SENEGALESE AND FRENCH CONSIDERED SUCCESS AND DURING WHICH GISCARD SHOWED

GREAT COURAGE. IN COURSE OF SUMMIT DISCUSSIONS DIVERGENCE BETWEEN TWO LUSOPHONE PARTICIPANTS WAS APPARENT WHEN GUINEA-BISSAU REPRESENTATIVE SUPPORTED ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO'S CLAIM OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN INVASION OF ZAIRE'S SHABA PROVINCE AND CAPE VERDE REPRESENTATIVE REFUSED TO SUPPORT THAT POSITION. SENGHOR SAID CAPE VERDIANS CONTINUED TO RESIST SOVIET PRESSURES FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITARY BASE RIGHTS, BUT THAT USSR AND CUBAN INFLUENCE IN GUINEA-BISSAU WAS INCREASING. DURING RECENT VISIT TO PARIS, FRENCH INTELLIGENCE CHIEF, WHO SENGHOR CLAIMS IS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT COMMUNIST THREAT THAN QUAI AND PRESIDENCY, TOLD SENGHOR SOVIET AND CUBAN ADVISORS NOW NUMBER 600 IN GUINEA-BISSAU.

7. SENGHOR REVEALED NEXT MOVE OF MODERATE STATES WOULD BE FORMATION OF DEFENSE PACT AT JUNE 9 AND 10 MEETING IN ABIDJAN WHERE CEA SIX WOULD EXAMINE SENEGALESE PROJECT. TOGO WAS PROSPECTIVE SEVENTH MEMBER OF PACT.

8. SENGHOR SAID HE APPRECIATED CLOSE CONSULTATION AND THOROUGH BRIEFING ON US POLICY DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY PROVIDED BECAUSE INTERNATIONAL PRESS GAVE IMPRESSION OF LACK OF USG COHERENCE ON SOME AFRICAN ISSUES, WITH UN PERMREP YOUNG TAKING PUBLIC POSITIONS THE WISDOM AND TIMELINESS OF WHICH HE PERSONALLY QUESTIONED AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SEEING THE NEED TO MODERATE THEM. HE UNDERSTOOD THE ATMOSPHERE OF ASSESSMENT AND REAPPRAISAL WHICH CREATED SUCH A SITUATION BUT HE FEARED THE PRESS MAY HAVE DISTORTED IT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO WEAKEN THE US IMAGE IN AFRICA.

9. I THANKED SENGHOR FOR HIS CANDOR AND SAID THAT OUR FOREIGN POLICY LEADERSHIP WAS UNITED IN DEVELOPING AND PURSUING A SOUND AND PRODUCTIVE POLICY IN AFRICA IN WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS AND AFRICAN DESIRES WERE MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS. I DESCRIBED OUR KEY ROLE IN THE FIVE POWER EFFORT ON NAMIBIA AND OUR CLEAR SUPPORT FOR THE OWEN MISSION. SENGHOR SAID HE APPRECIATED AND WELCOMED AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S INITIATIVES AND OUR EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND, FOR THAT MATTER, IN ZAIRE, WHERE FRENCH AND MOROCCANS WERE GETTING CREDIT, BUT HE HOPED WE WOULD BE ABLE TO REAP MORE PROPAGANDA BENEFIT FROM OUR INITIATIVES IN THE FUTURE. I SAID I WOULD REPORT HIS CONCERNS.

10. SENGHOR REVEALED HE WOULD CALL AMBASSADOR COULBARY TO DAKAR FOR CONSULTATION AROUND MAY 27. HE FELT NEED FOR MODERATE CONFIDENTIAL

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AFRICAN STATES TO WIDEN THEIR CONTACTS WITH USG INCLUDING
ESPECIALLY THE CONGRESS.

11. COMMENT: DESPITE AN INCREDIBLY GRUELLING SCHEDULE
WITH MY 7 P.M. APPOINTMENT THE LAST OF A FULL SATURDAY CALENDAR,
SENGHOR HAD NOT LOST HIS HUMOR OR HIS PATIENCE AND HE HAD TIME
FOR A SHORT EXCHANGE ON RECENT US PUBLICATIONS ON ETHIOPIA AND
ON THE AFRICAN PRESENCE IN ASIA. SENGHOR LOOKED FORWARD TO THE
INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGES OF HIS VISIT TO GERMANY AND HAD BEGUN
TO PREPARE FOR THE JUNE SOJOURN IN DAKAR OF A SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
GROUP HEADED BY FORMER SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER OLAF PALME.
AGGREY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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